

HARGIS, BOBBY W.

JLR:JAB/jte

MEMORANDUM

April 8, 1964

TO: Mr. Joseph A. Ball

FROM: J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel

You are hereby authorized to take the testimony, under oath, of the following additional witnesses in Dallas, Texas, upon oral deposition:

The following members of the Dallas Police Department:

B. W. Hargis
G. F. Rose
Jerry Henslee
Inspector J. Herbert Sawyer
Sgt. G. L. Hill
C. A. Hagwood
E. D. Brewer
Bill Perry
R. L. Clark
Don Abels
J. A. Putnam
Rio Pierce
L. L. Hill
J. M. Poe
C. B. Owens
C. E. Talbert
D. V. Harkness
J. W. Foster
J. C. White
Joe Smith

You are further authorized to take the testimony of the following witnesses:

John Gibson
John Horn
David Knapp
David Lujan
Richard Borchardt
Ellis Brazel
D. Bogart
Warren Burroughs

#93

~~TOP SECRET~~

HARGIS, BOBBY W.

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

- - -

Dallas, Texas
Wednesday, April 8, 1964
3:20 p.m.

- - -

The President's Commission met, pursuant to
recess, at 3:20 p.m., in the office of the U. S.
Attorney, 301 Post Office Building, Bryan and Ervay
Streets, Dallas, Texas.

PRESENT:

Samuel A. Stearn, Staff Counsel

Iris Leonard, Reporter

DECLASSIFIED

By Archivist of the United States

By 434 Date 7 SEP 1974

IRIS LEONARD
COURT REPORTER
PHONES RI 1-5443
BL 5-6073
2414 SUMMIT DR.
IRVING, TEXAS

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~
P R O C E E D I N G S

1 MR. STEARN: Will you stand, please.

2 Do you solemnly swear that the evidence you
3 are about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth,
4 and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

5 MR. HARGIS: I do.

6
7 STATEMENT OF BOBBY W. HARGIS

8
9 MR. STEARN: Would you state for the record
10 your name and residence address.

11 MR. HARGIS: Bobby W. Hargis, 1818 Adelaide,
12 Dallas, Texas.

13 MR. STEARN: What is your occupation?

14 MR. HARGIS: Police officer.

15 MR. STEARN: How long have you been a member
16 of the Dallas Police Department?

17 MR. HARGIS: Nine years and about seven months.

18 MR. STEARN: And you are now a member of the
19 motorcycle --

20 MR. HARGIS: Division.

21 MR. STEARN: --division?

22 MR. HARGIS: Yes.

23 MR. STEARN: Were you a part of the motorcade
24 on November 22nd?

25 MR. HARGIS: Yes, I was.

DECLASSIFIED
By Archivist of the United States
By AAK Date 7 SEP 1977

~~TOP SECRET~~

1 MR. STEARN: In what position?

2 MR. HARGIS: I was at the left hand side of
3 the Presidential limosine.

4 MR. STEARN: At what part of the President's
5 car?

6 MR. HARGIS: Well --

7 MR. STEARN: Front, or rear?

8 MR. HARGIS: Oh. Rear.

9 MR. STEARN: Riding next to Mrs. Kennedy?

10 MR. HARGIS: Right.

11 MR. STEARN: Will you describe what occurred
12 or what you observed as the limosine turned into Elm
13 Street?

14 MR. HARGIS: Well, at the time that the limo-
15 sine turned left on Elm Street I was staying pretty
16 well right up with the car. Sometimes on Elm we
17 couldn't get right up next to it on account of the
18 crowd, but the crowd was thinning out down here at
19 the triple underpass, so, I was next to Mrs. Kennedy
20 when I heard the first shot, and at that time the
21 President bent over, and Governor Connally turned
22 around. He was sitting directly in front of him,
23 and a real shocked and surprised expression on his
24 face.

25 MR. STEARN: On Governor Connally's?

DECLASSIFIED
By Archivist of the United States
By AA Date 7 SEP 1971

IRIS LEONARD
COURT REPORTER
PHONES RI 1-5443
BL 5-6073
2414 SUMMIT DR.
IRVING, TEXAS

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

1 MR. HARGIS: Yes, that is why I thought
2 Governor Connally had been shot first, but it looked
3 like the President was bending over to hear what he
4 had to say, and I thought to myself then that
5 Governor Connally, the Governor had been hit, and
6 then as the President raised back up like that
7 (indicating) the shot that killed him hit him. I
8 don't know whether it was the second or the third
9 shot. Everything happened so fast.

10 MR. STEARN: But, you cannot now recall more
11 than two shots?

12 MR. HARGIS: That is all that I can recall
13 remembering. Of course, everything was moving so
14 fast at the time that there could have been 30 more
15 shots that I probably never would have noticed them.

16 MR. STEARN: Did something happen to you,
17 personally in connection with the shot you have just
18 described?

19 MR. HARGIS: You mean about the blood hitting
20 me?

21 MR. STEARN: Yes.

22 MR. HARGIS: Yes, when President Kennedy
23 straightened back up in the car the bullet hit him in
24 the head, the one that killed him and it seemed like
25 his head exploded, and I was splattered with blood

DECLASSIFIED
By AFchivist of the United States
By 1/1/81 Date 7 SEP 1971

IRIS LEONARD
COURT REPORTER
PHONES RI 1-5443
BL 5-6073
2414 SUMMIT DR.
IRVING, TEXAS

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

1 and brain, and kind of a bloody water. It wasn't
2 really blood. And at that time the Presidential
3 car slowed down. I heard somebody say, "Get going,"
4 or "get going," --

5 MR. STEARN: Someone inside the --

6 MR. HARGIS: I don't know whether it was the
7 Secret Service car, and I remembered seeing Officer
8 Chaney. Chaney put his motor in first gear and
9 accelerated up to the front to tell them to get
10 everything out of the way, that he was coming through,
11 and that is when the Presidential limosine shot off,
12 and I stopped and got off my motorcycle and ran to
13 the right-hand side of the street, behind the light
14 pole.

15 MR. STEARN: Just a minute. Do you recall
16 your impression at the time regarding the source of
17 the shots?

18 MR. HARGIS: Well, at the time it sounded
19 like the shots were right next to me. There wasn't
20 any way in the world I could tell where they were
21 coming from, but at the time there was something in
22 my head that said that they probably could have been
23 coming from the railroad overpass, because I thought
24 since I had got splattered, with blood -- I was just
25 a little back and left of -- just a little bit back

DECLASSIFIED
By Archivist of the United States
By 3/3/81 Date 2 SEP 1971

DECLASSIFIED
By Archivist of the United States
By 458 Date 7 SEP 1971

~~TOP SECRET~~
1 and left of Mrs. Kennedy, but I didn't know. I had
2 a feeling that it might have been from the Texas
3 Book Depository, and these two places was the primary
4 place that could have been shot from.

5 MR. STEARN: You were clear that the sounds
6 were sounds of shots?

7 MR. HARGIS: Yes, sir, I knew they were shots.

8 MR. STEARN: All right, what did you do then?
9 You say you parked your motorcycle?

10 MR. HARGIS: Yes, uh-huh --

11 MR. STEARN: Where?

12 MR. HARGIS: It was to the left hand side of
13 the street from -- south side of Elm Street.

14 MR. STEARN: And then what did you do?

15 MR. HARGIS: I ran across the street looking
16 over towards the railroad overpass and I remembered
17 seeing people scattering and running and then I
18 looked --

19 MR. STEARN: People on the overpass?

20 MR. HARGIS: Yes, people that were there to
21 see the President I guess. They were taking pictures
22 and things. It was kind of a confused crowd. I don't
23 know whether they were trying to hide or see what
24 was happening or what, -- and then I looked over to
25 the Texas School Book Depository Building, and no one

1 that was standing at the base of the building was --
2 seemed to be looking up at the building or anything
3 like they knew where the shots were coming from, so --

4 MR. STEARN: How about the people on the
5 incline on the north side of Elm Street? Do you
6 recall their behavior?

7 MR. HARGIS: Yes, I remember a man holding a
8 child. Fell to the ground and covered his child
9 with his body, and people running everywhere, trying
10 to get out of there, I guess, and they were about as
11 confused as to where the shots were coming from as
12 everyone else was.

13 MR. STEARN: And did you run up the incline
14 on your side of Elm Street?

15 MR. HARGIS: Yes, sir, I ran to the light post,
16 and I ran up to this kind of a little wall, brick
17 wall up there to see if I could get a better look on
18 the bridge, and, of course, I was looking all around
19 that place by that time. I knew it couldn't have
20 come from the County courthouse because that place
21 was swarming with Deputy Sheriffs over there.

22 MR. STEARN: Did you get behind the picket
23 fence that runs from the overpass to the concrete
24 wall?
25

DECLASSIFIED
By Archivist of the United States
By 434 Date 7 SEP 1971

1 MR. ~~HARGIS~~: ~~SECRET~~
2 MR. STEARN: On the north side of Elm Street?

3 MR. HARGIS: No, no, I don't remember any
4 picket fence.

5 MR. STEARN: Did you observe anything then
6 on the overpass, or on the incline, or around the
7 Depository? Anything out of the ordinary besides
8 people running?

9 MR. HARGIS: No, I didn't. That is what got
10 me.

11 MR. STEARN: So, at that point you were still
12 uncertain as to the direction of the shots?

13 MR. HARGIS: Yes, uh-huh.

14 MR. STEARN: Then, what did you do?

15 MR. HARGIS: Well, then, I thought since I had
16 looked over at the Texas Book Depository and some
17 people looking out of the windows up there, didn't
18 seem like they knew what was going on, but none of
19 them were looking towards, or near anywhere the shots
20 had been fired from. At the time I didn't know, but
21 about the only activity I could see was on the bridge,
22 on the railroad bridge so --

23 MR. STEARN: What sort of activity was that?

24 MR. HARGIS: Well, the people that were up
25 there were just trying to get a better look at what

DECLASSIFIED
By Archivist of the United States
By 43X Date 7 SEP 1971

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 was happening and was in a haze and running, or in
2 a confused fashion, and I thought maybe some of them
3 had seen who did the shooting and the rifle.

4 MR. STEARN: Then what did you do?

5 MR. HARGIS: Then I got back on my motorcycle,
6 which was still running, and rode underneath the
7 first underpass to look on the opposite side in order
8 to see if I could see anyone running away from the
9 scene, and since I didn't see anyone coming from that
10 direction I rode under the second underpass, which
11 is Stemmons Expressway and went up around to see if
12 I could see anyone coming from across Stemmons and
13 back that way, and I couldn't see anything. I was
14 of a suspicious nature, so, I came back to the Texas
15 School Book Depository. At that time it seemed like
16 the activity was centered around the Texas School
17 Book Depository, so, that is when I heard someone
18 say, one of the sergeants or Lieutenants, I don't
19 know, "Don't let anyone out of the Texas School Book
20 Depository," and so, I went to a gap that had not
21 been filled, which was at the southwest corner.

22
23 MR. STEARN: And you remained there until you
24 were relieved?

25 MR. HARGIS: Yes.

MR. STEARN: Anything else that you haven't

DECLASSIFIED
By Archivist of the United States
By 4 JX Date 7 SEP 1971

~~TOP SECRET~~
told us that you think is relevant to our inquiry?

MR. HARGIS: No, I don't believe so.

MR. STEARN: Thank you very much, Mr. Hargis.

The reporter will transcribe your testimony and have it available for you to read and sign if you care to. Otherwise, you may waive your right to review and sign the testimony and she will mail it direct to the Commission, whichever you prefer. It is entirely your option.

MR. HARGIS: Well, it really doesn't make any difference. It is more or less what you all think is best.

MR. STEARN: It's entirely up to you.

MR. HARGIS: Well, how long will it be until she fixes it up?

MR. STEARN: Well, off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

MR. STEARN: On the record.

MR. HARGIS: All right. Well, just go ahead and I will just let you go ahead and send it in without the signature.

MR. STEARN: Thank you very much, Mr. Hargis.

(Whereupon, at 4:00 o'clock, p.m., the deposition proceedings were concluded.)

(Signature waived.)

IRIS LEONARD
COURT REPORTER
PHONES RI 1-5443
BL 5-6073
2414 SUMMIT DR.
IRVING, TEXAS

~~TOP SECRET~~